

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
February 3, 2015

PROJECTS WILL PROTECT LONG ISLAND SOUND BY IMPROVING FARMLAND AND WATER QUALITY IN ITS WATERSHED

The Department of Agriculture will partner with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and others in three major projects designed to protect the watershed of Long Island Sound and improve the farmlands within it.

The locally-driven projects, funded by federal grants totaling nearly \$11 million, are designed to improve water quality, support wildlife habitat, and enhance agricultural lands and the environment.

They are among 115 projects across all 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that will receive more than \$370 million in federal funding as part of the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

In turn, these projects will leverage an estimated \$400 million in partner contributions.

The largest project in Connecticut was a proposal submitted by the Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts to address excess nutrients that have been identified as the primary cause of hypoxic (oxygen-depleted) conditions in Long Island Sound.

The RCPP program will provide \$10 million to develop a comprehensive, whole-farm management program for farmers in the watershed, including areas of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The project will utilize both working lands and easement programs to improve soil health and nutrient management, focus on enhancing riparian areas, and institute a land-protection program for agricultural and forestry areas.

"Protecting the shellfish-rich waters of Long Island Sound and helping farmers implement best-management practices on working farmlands is critical to sustaining the growth of Connecticut's thriving agricultural economy," Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky said during a Jan. 15 announcement of the program at the State Capitol. "This funding will help ensure that these vital natural resources continue to produce both healthy food for consumers and a prosperous living for our hardworking farmers and other agricultural producers. I applaud the NRCS for this innovative approach that leverages resources and enlists the collaboration of all involved stakeholders."

By using existing Farm Bill programs to deliver financial and technical assistance, the RCPP will afford opportunities for farmers and agricultural producers to:

- cut fertilizer costs
- minimize soil runoff
- acquire easements on working farmland



A map showing the watershed of Long Island Sound, the focus of nearly \$11 million in new federal funding for projects to protect the Sound by improving the water and lands in the watershed.

- reduce erosion
- minimize runoff of nutrients into streams
- reduce sediment
- improve and make more efficient irrigation systems
- reduce impacts of drought
- expand water storage capacity
- become economically resilient to climate variability
- prevent flooding
- improve water and air quality
- restore and enhance wildlife habitat
- optimize food production

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PA LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

LOW HIGH

SLAUGHTER COWS:

breakers 75-80% lean	103.00	108.00
boners 80-85% lean	100.50	106.00
lean 85-90% lean	95.75	101.00

CALVES graded bull

No 1 95-120lbs	367.50	425.50
No 2 95-120lbs	331.25	386.50
No 3 80-120lbs	237.75	311.00

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS

HiCh/Prm2-3	163.25	166.00
Ch1-3	157.00	160.00
Sel1-2	154.00	159.00

SLAUGHTER STEERS

HiCh/Prm2-3	165.25	168.75
Ch1-3	159.50	163.25
Sel1-2	154.00	158.50

SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS

HiCh/Prm2-3	147.25	150.00
Ch1-3	138.50	142.50
Sel1-2	136.25	141.25

VEALERS Utility 60-120lb

39.00	95.00
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SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Traditional Markets:

ch/pr 2-3		
60-80 lb hair sheep	232.00	270.00
60-80 lbs	236.00	252.00
80-110 lbs	192.00	224.00

SLAUGHTER EWES: good 2-3

90-130 lbs hair sheep	137.00	142.00
130-150 lbs	120.00	142.00
160-170 lbs	127.00	140.00

BUCKS

170-190 lbs	110.00	114.00
210-250lbs	77.00	107.00

SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel. 1, by head, est.

20-40lb	n/a	
40-60lb	155.00	182.00
60-80lb	165.00	185.00
80-100	222.00	260.00
Nannies/Does: 110-130 lbs	230.00	252.00
130-140 lbs	n/a	
Bucks/Billies: 130-150 lbs	275.00	335.00
150-160 lbs	280.00	395.00

NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

48-52	250-350 lbs	55.00	60.00
	300-400 lbs	n/a	n/a
52-56	250-350 lbs	60.00	70.00
	300-400 lbs	n/a	n/a
Sows, US1-	400-600 lbs	50.00	53.00
Low dress	400-600 lbs	40.00	42.50
Boars	650-800 lbs	25.00	25.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES**NEW ENGLAND GROWN****Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices**

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5LB	14.00	14.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 12/3 USFCY	17.00	17.00
APPLE, HONEYCRISP, 80, USFCY	30.00	30.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 88, US FCY	20.00	20.00
APPLE, RED DEL, 100, XFCY	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MCINTOSH, 120, US#1	17.00	18.00
APPLE, CORTLAND, 12/3 US#1	15.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10LB	4.50	6.00
CIDER 9-1/2 GAL	21.00	21.00
PARSNIPS, 25LB	22.00	23.00
POTATOES, RNDRED, 50LB, US1	11.50	12.00
SQUASH, BUTTERNUT, 1-1/9 BU	12.00	13.00
TOMATOES, 25LB, GRHSE, VR	21.00	22.00
TOMATOES, CHERRY, 5LB, GRHS	26.00	26.00

SHIPPED IN

BROCCOLI, 20LB, CA, CRWN	24.00	26.00
CABBAGE, 50LB, NY	9.00	10.00
CARROTS, BABY, CA 15/2LB	23.00	24.00
COLLARDS, BU, 24, GA	24.00	24.00
ROMAINE, 10LB, CRWNCUT, CA	23.50	23.50
ORANGES, NAVEL, 88, 7/10, CA	22.00	23.00
PEPPERS, GRN, 1 1/9 BU, FL	9.00	12.00
RHUBARB, GRHSE, 10LB, MI	35.00	35.00
STAR FRUIT, 25 CT, FL	14.00	15.00
STRAWBERRIES, 4-2LB, FL	7.00	10.00

**NORTHEAST/USDA CHICKEN
WEEKLY RETAIL PRICES
PER LB.**

BAGGED FRYER	.99	1.89
BAGGED ROASTER	1.00	1.99
BNLS/SKNLS BREAST	2.99	3.99
WHOLE WINGS	1.99	2.99
LEG QUARTERS	.79	1.99
THIGHS	.99	1.99
BNLS/SKNLS THIGHS	2.21	2.21
DRUMSTICKS	.99	1.19

HAY**LANCASTER, PA/PRICE PER TON**

	PREMIUM	GOOD
ALFALFA	230.00-380.00	190.00-210.00
MIXED HAY	230.00-400.00	190.00-225.00
TIMOTHY	250.00-305.00	195.00-210.00
STRAW	110.00-200.00	

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT., January 26, 2015

Bob Calves:	Low	High
45-60 lbs.	50.00	60.00
61-75 lbs.	100.00	140.00
76-90 lbs.	220.00	245.00
91-105 lbs.	250.00	260.00
106 lbs. & up	270.00	280.00
Farm Calves	290.00	300.00
Starter Calves	40.00	50.00
Veal Calves	n/a	n/a
Open Heifers	102.50	120.00
Beef Heifers	110.00	136.00
Feeder Steers	125.00	127.50
Beef Steers	130.00	137.00
Stock Bulls	125.00	145.00
Beef Bulls	132.50	135.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	n/a	n/a
Lambs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	n/a	n/a
Kid Goats	n/a	n/a
Canners	up to	108.50
Cutters	109.00	111.00
Utility Grade Cows	112.00	114.00
Rabbits each	3.00	32.00
Chickens each	5.00	24.00
Ducks each	6.00	27.50

NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.39	1.55
LARGE	1.32	1.46
MEDIUM	1.21	1.34

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	2.05	2.15
LARGE	2.01	2.11
MEDIUM	1.43	1.53

PA FEEDER PIG SUMMARY

US # 1-2	20-30lb	135.00	180.00
	30-40 lb	170.00	200.00
	40-50 lb	160.00	175.00
	60-80 lb	150.00	150.00
US # 2			
	20-30 lb	120.00	160.00
	30-40 lb	130.00	180.00
	40-50 lb	120.00	170.00
	60-90 lb	75.00	110.00

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com.

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

7-R. Ford Skidsteer, Wisconsin V4, bucket, extension for snow, Hay Spike attachment, excellent condition, inside stored. \$4,900. 860-877-3335.

8-R. CT non-GMO grain and corn. Hay and straw. Pleasant View Farms. Louis. 860-803-0675.

10-R. Hay for Sale. First cutting \$5.50 each plus tax. Second cutting \$5.75 each plus tax. Call 860-635-1379.

11-R. Goats. Kiko/Savanna bucks, 10 months old. \$170.00. Dried Chicken manure by the trailer load. 860-537-1974.

16. 1969 JD 2020 diesel tractor with loader. Asking \$2,500.00. Just replaced battery, injectors, injection pump, transfer pump, starter. Tractor runs. Needs head gasket/engine work. 203-556-1833.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

17-R. Free professional advising sessions for farmers - CT Farm Risk Management and Crop Insurance Program. One-on-One confidential sessions with an agri-business professional to discuss farm related issues. Dates available Feb., March, April. www.ctfarmrisk.uconn.edu

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Two other state projects were also selected for funding:

- **Achieving Agricultural Water Security in Connecticut** was submitted by the University of Connecticut. Partners will utilize \$400,000 in RCPP funds to work with producers to help optimize food production, improve irrigation efficiency, reduce impacts of drought, and become economically resilient in the face of greater climate variability.
- **Improving Soil Health and Water Quality in the Thames River Watershed** was submitted by The Last Green Valley. Partners will utilize \$400,000 in RCPP funds work to improve soil health and water quality in the Thames River Watershed.

The long-term objective is to implement soil health conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program on 1,000 acres of cropland and show a measurable improvement of edge-of-field and in-stream water quality, including a decrease in nutrient and turbidity levels.

The projects were among 600 pre-proposals that were submitted nationwide, said Lisa Coverdale, Connecticut State Conservationist for the USDA-NRCS.

Coverdale said the RCPP emphasizes input from stakeholders that will be directly impacted by the projects, which are also intended to promote economic growth in agriculture, construction, tourism, outdoor recreation, and other industries.

"RCPP puts our partners in the driver's seat," she said.

"Projects are led locally, and demonstrate the value of strong public-private partnerships that deliver solutions to tough natural resource challenges."

Denise Savageau, President of the Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts, said the RCPP will serve as a catalyst for new public-private partnerships within the watershed.

"This new initiative provides an incentive for local conservation districts, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations to collaborate on a landscape scale program to protect Long Island Sound," she said.

USDA's \$1.2 billion in funding over the life of the five-year program can leverage an additional \$1.2 billion from partners for a total of \$2.4 billion for conservation.

"This is an entirely new approach to conservation efforts," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. "These partnerships empower communities to set priorities and lead the way on conservation efforts important for their region. We're giving private companies, local communities, and other non-government partners a way to invest in a new era in conservation that ultimately benefits us all."

Congressman Joe Courtney, (CT-2) who represents the district encompassing most of Eastern Connecticut, called the projects a major investment that will help preserve Long Island Sound for generations to come.

"This funding will enable local, state and federal partners to work together to protect the watershed across our region, improving the health of the Sound and strengthening our regional commitment to our environment," Courtney said.

Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (CT-3), Co-Chair of the Congressional Long Island Sound Caucus, said the new funding gives the Long Island Sound a much-needed boost.

"In addition to protecting the natural beauty of the Sound, this helps create tourism and recreation jobs, and bolsters our economy," she said. "This level of coordination and funding is

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The poster features a stylized map of Connecticut on the left with the text "Harvest New England" and the website "harvestnewengland.org". In the center is a large sun graphic with the year "2015" inside it. Below the sun, the text "Harvest New England Ag Marketing Conference and Trade Show" is written in a large, bold, serif font. At the bottom left, it says "February 25 and 26, 2015" and "Sturbridge Hotel, Sturbridge, MA". At the bottom right, it says "To register online and for the latest conference updates, visit HarvestNewEngland.org/events".



(L to R) Congressman Joe Courtney, Last Green Valley Ex. Dir. Lois Bruinooge, NRCS Chief Jason Weller, Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, NRCS State Conservationist Lisa Coverdale, DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee, UConn CANR Associate Dean Mike O'Neill, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, UConn CANR Dean Gregory Weidemann, and Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts President Denise Savageau at the announcement of the Regional Conservation Protection Program at the State Capitol in Hartford.

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unprecedented, and is a great step forward for Connecticut.”

Other partners in the projects include the Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation; the Connecticut River Watershed Council; The Nature Conservancy; Highstead Regional Conservation and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

For more information on Connecticut RCPP projects, visit the Connecticut NRCS website at www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov, or view the full list of projects on the National NRCS website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=stelprdb1264664>

USDA INVESTS \$18 MILLION TO TRAIN BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) this week announced more than \$18 million in grants to educate and mentor the next generation of farmers.

The grants are available through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and authorized by the 2014 federal Farm Bill. The program aims to support those who have farmed or ranched less than 10 years with workshops, educational teams, training, and technical assistance throughout the United States.

More information about USDA support for new farmers and ranchers is available at www.usda.gov/newfarmers.

Applications are due March 13, 2015.

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